

REMARKS

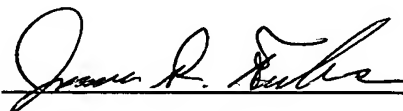
Claims in the case are 19-35, upon entry of this amendment. Claims 21-35 have been added, and Claims 1-18 have been cancelled herein. Method Claims 19 and 20 were the subject of a restriction requirement in an Office Action dated July 11, 2003 in the corresponding parent patent application.

The basis for each of added Claims 21-35 is summarized in the following table.

Claim	Basis
21	Original Claim 2
22	Original Claim 3
23	Original Claim 4
24	Original Claim 5
25	Original Claim 6
26	Original Claim 7
27	Original Claim 8
28	Original Claim 9
29	Original Claim 10
30	Original Claim 11
31	Original Claim 12
32	Original Claim 13
33	Original Claim 14
34	Original Claim 16
35	Original Claim 17

The added claims and amendments presented herein are not deemed to represent the entry of new matter into the application. A new Abstract page is attached. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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METHOD OF PREPARING A MOLDED CROSS VEHICLE BEAM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of preparing a molded cross vehicle beam which includes a hollow blow molded thermoplastic rigid member that is integrally attached to a rigid support, e.g., a U-shaped metal plate, and at least one attachment element, is described. The rigid support (12) has a first surface, a second surface and a plurality of perforations having edges. The attachment element(s) (81, 84) have a first surface, a second surface and a plurality of perforations having edges. The attachment element provides a means of attaching the molded cross vehicle beam to a separate structure (e.g., the A-pillars of an automobile). A thermoplastic parison precursor of the hollow rigid thermoplastic member (15) is blow molded against the first surfaces of the rigid support (12) and the attachment element (81, 84). Portions of the thermoplastic parison extend through perforations in each of the rigid support (12) and the attachment element (81, 84), thereby attaching the hollow thermoplastic rigid member (15) to the rigid support (12) and the attachment element (81, 84). The present invention also relates to a process by which the molded cross vehicle beam is prepared.